

TRIBUTE TO COY DEAN FORTSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coy Dean Fortson who regretfully passed away recently. A life-long resident of Berrien County, Michigan, Coy was a dedicated family man whose extensive charity and dedication to local individuals and the community as a whole made southwest Michigan an even greater place to live and grow.

Coy valiantly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and was a member of the Air Force Reserves for more than 30 years. Over his inspiring career at the Whirlpool Corporation, Coy helped to improve the lives of countless individuals who had the fortune of crossing his path. There is no question that Coy's passion for the betterment of our corner of Michigan will be greatly missed. He undoubtedly touched many lives as a member of Berrien County's FEMA Emergency Planning and Response Team. Coy also served on the Board of Directors for the local public library, where he spent many hours volunteering in order to expand the availability of educational resources for our extended community.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, our prayers and sincere regards go out to Coy's family and friends—he will certainly be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREATER
TULSA AREA HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for 25 years of service to the Hispanic community.

Then Mayor, James M. Inhofe, and Jack and Aurora Ramirez Helton formed the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission in 1979. A city ordinance and county resolution were enacted so that the Commission would continue in the future. In 1979 only a few cities in the United States had such a commission. The Commission's current work includes annual youth exchanges and adult exchanges, which are an established part of their partnership with Tulsa's Eisenhower International School. Eisenhower has the United States' only elementary school international exchange program in its relationship with San Luis Potosi's Instituto Cervantes.

May the commission have many more years of such valuable community service and prosperity.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring Taiwan President, Chen Shui-bian, and his people on the occasion of their October 10 National Day.

In the past two decades, Taiwan has truly emerged as a model Asian country. Secretary Powell said it well when he remarked, "Taiwan has become a resilient economy, a vibrant democracy and a generous contributor to the international community." In fact, Taiwan's economy is the 16th largest in the world. One third the size of Virginia, Taiwan produces a Gross National Product that is four-fifths the size of Australia's.

In addition, Taiwan's democracy gives its people a full range of political and civil rights, including freedom of speech and assembly. Taiwan also contributes to international causes. For example, in the last 10 years, Taiwan has given \$100 million dollars to 78 countries and Taiwan is now providing a significant amount of humanitarian assistance to refugees in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has become a close friend of the United States. Our relationship with Taiwan is multifaceted and wide-ranging. While we do not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, our mutual relationship has been able to flourish over many years. The United States and Taiwan have many common interests and shared values. Taiwan has been supportive of the United States, including our efforts in the war against global terror. In turn, the United States should help Taiwan return to the World Health Organization and the United Nations and commit ourselves to the Taiwan Relations Act, thus assuring Taiwan's security.

It is clear to us that the 23 million people of Taiwan prefer the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. They prefer peace, stability and continued prosperity instead of dramatic changes that might undermine or endanger what they have achieved. To reflect the will of the people, in his May 20 inaugural address to the Taiwanese people, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was very conciliatory toward China and offered to open talks with China without pre-conditions. In fact, he did not rule out any form of relationship with China as long as it would be acceptable to the people of Taiwan. During this difficult time, the United States should support Taiwan's security, dignity and sovereignty. We should listen to the 23 million people of Taiwan and heed their desire for continued peace and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I wish to congratulate Taiwan ambassador, Dr. David Lee, and the people of Taiwan on their National Day and wish them every success in their year-end legislative elections.

RECOGNIZING GARY, INDIANA
MEMBERS OF NAACP**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary, Indiana branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, October 15, 2004, the Gary NAACP will hold its 44th Annual Mary White Ovington Awards Banquet at St. Timothy Community Church's Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary branch of the NAACP. The funds generated through this activity, and others like it, go directly to the organization's needed programs and advocacy efforts. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the activities, accomplishments, and accolades of the local and national chapters of the NAACP on an annual basis.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Dr. Mary Steele. Dr. Steele is the Superintendent of the Gary Community School Corporation. This is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education, the 75th Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 39th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. This year's theme is "The Race Is On. The Time Is Now." The NAACP Gary Branch will honor members of the community that have contributed to the cause of civil rights, labor and industry, the community, and its organization.

On February 12, 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded by a multiracial group of activists, and their goal among many was to secure the political, economic, and social rights of all African Americans. For more than 95 years, the NAACP built and grew on the collective courage of thousands of people. As the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in and stand for the principles on which the organization was founded. Throughout its history, some of America's greatest minds have worked to effect change.

The Gary NAACP was organized by a group of residents that felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO DALLAS CHAFFINS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dallas Chaffins, an upstanding resident of the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky. Chaffins, a 73-year-old coal miner in Eastern Kentucky, has been working underground for 56 years without ever having a lost-time injury. This remarkable accomplishment has earned him numerous awards and commendations, and I believe he deserves our recognition as well.

Born in Big Rock, Virginia, Dallas Chaffins started working in the coal mines on April 5, 1948, at the Buchanan Coal Company. Although he was only 17-years-old then, he had already been working for 6 years with his father in the timber industry. It's obvious that Dallas had a strong work ethic instilled in him from the time he was a little boy.

Throughout the next 6 decades, Dallas worked determinedly in the mines. During his career, he only took 2 years off, from October 1951 to October 1953, so he could serve his country in the United States Marine Corps.

And he's not quite ready to throw in his helmet yet.

He still rises each morning long before the sun does and heads to the mines to greet his coworkers with a handshake and a smile. You see, Dallas is known as much for his friendly disposition as he is his impeccable safety record. He attributes this characteristic to his devout faith in God. "I believe if a person keeps his own conscience clean that he will shine on the outside," he recently told a reporter for a Kentucky newspaper. "I think the Lord has blessed me with this. Yes, I give him all the credit."

In addition to being a friend and mentor, and source of joy to countless miners throughout the years, Chaffins has reared 12 children and now enjoys spending time with 26 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to congratulate Dallas Chaffins on 56 years of tireless, careful service in the mines. His hard work and integrity is an inspiration to others, both young and old, and Eastern Kentucky is a better place because of him.

HONORING DR. ROGER W.
LITWILLER

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in the field of medicine and an outstanding citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Roger W. Litwiller, M.D.

Dr. Litwiller soon will complete his term as national president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). It is my pleasure to recognize one of the Roanoke Valley's own as the 2003–2004 president of this prestigious national organization that is recognized worldwide for its outstanding work in improving patient safety.

Founded in 1905, ASA is the predominant professional organization representing more than 39,000 anesthesiologists. Since its founding, ASA has been the leader in the development of patient safety standards and guidelines for the delivery of safe patient care before, during and after surgery. Efforts on the part of the organization and its members are recognized throughout the scientific and medical communities. The Institute of Medicine, in its 1999 report on medical errors, recognized the successes of organized anesthesiology in improving patient outcomes.

Anesthesiologists either directly administer or supervise 90 percent of all anesthetics performed throughout this country, in hospitals and outpatient surgical centers, and in urban and rural areas. Besides the operating room, anesthesiologists are often found treating patients' pain and delivering critical medical care to patients in hospital intensive care units, emergency rooms and diagnostic facilities.

Dr. Litwiller received his medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, and completed his anesthesiology residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He is currently a staff anesthesiologist for Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, Virginia; Montgomery Regional Hospital, Blacksburg, Virginia; and Carilion Brambleton Ambulatory Surgery Center. He has worked in the private practice of anesthesiology in Roanoke, Virginia for more than 30 years.

Dr. Litwiller has served the Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists as president, newsletter editor and member of the Board of Directors.

For ASA, Dr. Litwiller has served as president-elect, first vice president, delegate, director, and chair of the committees on Finance, Governmental Affairs and Physician Resources. During his tenure as ASA president, Dr. Litwiller has made unparalleled strides in bringing together the various practitioners in medicine—from the operating room to the critical care suite and beyond—who share patient safety as their common goal. He has worked tirelessly with other organizations representing those who care for patients, and has involved ASA in numerous campaigns to improve surgical care.

Through the ASA Expert Witness Review process, he has also worked to ensure the accuracy of testimony given in malpractice suits, thereby helping to address the medical liability crisis.

He has spoken to countless groups all over the country to promote ASA's work, to ensure the future of academic programs in anesthesiology, and to tackle any threat to the continued development of science and research held so dear by this specialty.

Over the last year he united the professional associations providing the vast majority of anesthesia care in this country by identifying common goals. This cooperation between anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists resulted in efforts such as joint statements on clinical issues, visits to regulatory officials in Washington, D.C., and work with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations on patient safety matters.

He has been guided by a vision of compassion, science, and political involvement as the cornerstones of the practice of anesthesiology,

and in so doing has set an enduring example and created a legacy for his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Roger W. Litwiller, M.D., for his notable career achievements, his exemplary leadership, his dedication to patient safety, and his legacy which will benefit the patients of today as well as tomorrow.

POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN
PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED
STATES

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, the political status of Puerto Rico, and its relationship with the United States, is of great importance to the people of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has enjoyed Commonwealth status since 1952. One of the virtues of Commonwealth is precisely the fact that it possesses the flexibility to change the political status of Puerto Rico vis-a-vis the U.S., either within the framework of Commonwealth, or if the people choose other status options such as Statehood or Independence. Of course, Puerto Rico would work with the U.S. Congress towards implementing whichever option the people choose.

Since its creation, Commonwealth has been the preferred status option among the people of Puerto Rico. However, the people of Puerto Rico have failed in its previous efforts to improve Commonwealth because the different initiatives in Puerto Rico, as well as in this Congress, to deal with the status issue have not translated into concrete actions to implement the will of the people of Puerto Rico. Experience has shown that in order to have a true exercise of self-determination, we must work hard at achieving consensus among the people of Puerto Rico as to the process towards self-determination, in spite of our differences with regard to individual status preferences.

Hence, the Legislature of Puerto Rico approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 107 on July 22, 2004 which sets forth the public policy of said body that a Constitutional Assembly on Status is the preferred approach through which to exercise self-determination concerning the status of Puerto Rico and acknowledges these past failed attempts to deal with the status issue, recognizes the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico to effectively exercise their right to self-determination, and adopts the public policy that the Constitutional Assembly on Status is the best approach through which to exercise self-determination.

Accordingly, the Legislature of Puerto Rico has agreed to study and prepare legislation for the people to decide whether the Constitutional Assembly on Status is their preferred mechanism to deal with the status issue. Other mechanisms will be presented to the people. Thus the people will ultimately choose their preferred process. The legislation will also include the mechanisms through which delegates to the Assembly are elected, and will provide for its organization, if it is the option favored by voters.

At the same time, Senate Concurrent Resolution 107 orders the Puerto Rico Senate and